

**House File 230 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 230

BY BYRNES

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to street rods and custom motor vehicles, and  
2 making penalties and fees applicable.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

DIVISION I

STREET RODS AND CUSTOM VEHICLES

1  
2  
3 Section 1. Section 321.1, Code 2015, is amended by adding  
4 the following new subsection:

5 NEW SUBSECTION. 16A. "*Custom vehicle*" means any car or  
6 motor truck with a gross vehicle weight rating of less than ten  
7 thousand pounds required to be registered under this chapter,  
8 with a model year that is at least twenty-five years old and  
9 that was manufactured by a generally recognized manufacturer  
10 of motor vehicles after 1948, which may contain a body or  
11 frame not manufactured by the original manufacturer or which  
12 may be altered from the manufacturer's original design, or  
13 any motor vehicle designed and manufactured to resemble a  
14 motor vehicle with a model year that is at least twenty-five  
15 years old and that was manufactured by a generally recognized  
16 manufacturer of motor vehicles after 1948. For purposes of  
17 vehicle registration, the model year of a custom vehicle shall  
18 be the same as the model year of the motor vehicle that it is  
19 designed to resemble.

20 Sec. 2. Section 321.1, subsection 59, Code 2015, is amended  
21 to read as follows:

22 59. "*Reconstructed vehicle*" means every vehicle of a type  
23 required to be registered under this chapter materially altered  
24 from its original construction by the removal, addition, or  
25 substitution of essential parts, new or used. "*Reconstructed*  
26 *vehicle*" does not include a street rod, replica vehicle, custom  
27 vehicle, or glider kit vehicle.

28 Sec. 3. Section 321.1, subsection 76, Code 2015, is amended  
29 to read as follows:

30 76. "*Specially constructed vehicle*" means every vehicle  
31 of a type required to be registered under this chapter not  
32 originally constructed under a distinctive name, make, model,  
33 or type by a generally recognized manufacturer of vehicles  
34 and not materially altered from its original construction.  
35 "*Specially constructed vehicle*" does not include a street rod,

1 replica vehicle, custom vehicle, or glider kit vehicle.

2 Sec. 4. Section 321.1, subsection 78A, Code 2015, is amended  
3 to read as follows:

4 78A. "*Street rod*" means any car or motor truck with a  
5 gross vehicle weight rating of less than ten thousand pounds  
6 required to be registered under this chapter, manufactured  
7 by a generally recognized manufacturer of motor vehicles  
8 prior to the year 1949, which may contain a body or frame not  
9 manufactured by the original manufacturer or which may be  
10 altered from the manufacturer's original design, or any motor  
11 vehicle designed and manufactured to resemble a motor vehicle  
12 manufactured prior to the year 1949. For purposes of vehicle  
13 registration, the model year of a street rod shall be the same  
14 as the model year of the motor vehicle that it is designed to  
15 resemble.

16 Sec. 5. Section 321.23, subsection 1, Code 2015, is amended  
17 to read as follows:

18 1. *a.* ~~If the~~ In the application for a motor vehicle to be  
19 registered is as a specially constructed vehicle, reconstructed  
20 vehicle, street rod, replica vehicle, custom vehicle, or  
21 foreign vehicle, such fact shall be stated in the application  
22 all of the following shall be included:

23 (1) A statement that the vehicle to be registered is a  
24 specially constructed vehicle, reconstructed vehicle, street  
25 rod, replica vehicle, custom vehicle, or foreign vehicle.

26 (2) A statement that the vehicle will be maintained for  
27 occasional transportation or exhibition in club activities,  
28 parades, tours, or other similar uses, but will not be operated  
29 for general, everyday transportation.

30 (3) A fee of ten dollars shall be paid by the person making  
31 the application upon issuance of a certificate of title by  
32 the county treasurer. For a specially constructed vehicle,  
33 reconstructed vehicle, street rod, or replica vehicle subject  
34 to registration, the application shall be accompanied by a

35 (4) A statement from the department authorizing the motor

1 vehicle to be titled and registered in this state.

2 (5) Proof that the vehicle passed a safety inspection  
3 approved by the department. The department shall adopt rules  
4 regarding the form of the proof and the requirements of the  
5 safety inspection required by this subparagraph.

6 *b.* The department shall cause a physical inspection to  
7 be made of all specially constructed vehicles, reconstructed  
8 vehicles, street rods, custom vehicles, and replica vehicles  
9 upon application for a certificate of title by the owner,  
10 to determine whether the motor vehicle complies with the  
11 definition of specially constructed vehicle, reconstructed  
12 vehicle, street rod, custom vehicle, or replica vehicle in this  
13 chapter and to determine that the integral component parts  
14 are properly identified and that the rightful ownership is  
15 established before issuing the owner the authority to have  
16 the motor vehicle registered and titled. The purpose of the  
17 physical inspection under this section is not to determine  
18 whether the motor vehicle is in a condition safe to operate.

19 *c.* The owner of a specially constructed vehicle,  
20 reconstructed vehicle, street rod, custom vehicle, or replica  
21 vehicle shall apply for a certificate of title and registration  
22 for the vehicle at the county treasurer's office within thirty  
23 days of the ~~inspection~~ inspections required by paragraph "a",  
24 subparagraph (5), and paragraph "b". For a foreign vehicle  
25 which has been registered outside this state, the owner  
26 shall surrender to the treasurer all registration plates,  
27 registration cards, and certificates of title, or if the  
28 vehicle to be registered is from a nontitle state, the evidence  
29 of foreign registration and ownership as may be prescribed by  
30 the department except as provided in subsection 2.

31 *d.* Upon completion of every specially constructed vehicle,  
32 reconstructed vehicle, street rod, custom vehicle, or replica  
33 vehicle, the owner shall certify on a form prescribed by  
34 the department that such vehicle is in compliance with all  
35 equipment specifications required under this chapter.

1     Sec. 6. Section 321.115A, subsection 1, Code 2015, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3     1. A motor vehicle may be registered as a replica vehicle,  
4 custom vehicle, or street rod. The annual registration fee  
5 is the fee provided for in section 321.109, 321.113, 321.122,  
6 or 321.124. The owner of a vehicle registered under this  
7 section may display registration plates from or representing  
8 the model year of the motor vehicle or the model year of the  
9 motor vehicle the registered vehicle is designed to resemble,  
10 furnished by the person and approved by the department, in  
11 lieu of the current and valid Iowa registration plates issued  
12 for the vehicle, provided that the current and valid Iowa  
13 registration plates and the registration card issued for the  
14 vehicle are simultaneously carried within the vehicle and  
15 are available for inspection to any peace officer upon the  
16 officer's request.

17     Sec. 7. Section 321.115A, Code 2015, is amended by adding  
18 the following new subsection:

19     NEW SUBSECTION. 2A. Notwithstanding any other provision  
20 of law to the contrary, a motor vehicle registered under  
21 this section is exempt from periodic vehicle inspections and  
22 emissions requirements imposed by the laws of this state.

23                                   DIVISION II

24                                   SIGNAL LAMPS AND LIGHTING DEVICES

25     Sec. 8. Section 321.1, Code 2015, is amended by adding the  
26 following new subsection:

27     NEW SUBSECTION. 06A. "*Blue dot tail light*" means a red  
28 lamp installed in the rear of a street rod or custom vehicle,  
29 containing a blue or purple insert no more than one inch in  
30 diameter, and used for a rear lamp, rear signal lamp, rear  
31 hazard lamp, or rear reflector.

32     Sec. 9. Section 321.387, Code 2015, is amended to read as  
33 follows:

34     **321.387 Rear lamps.**

35     Every motor vehicle and every vehicle which is being drawn at

1 the end of a train of vehicles shall be equipped with a lighted  
2 rear lamp or lamps, exhibiting a ~~red~~ light plainly visible from  
3 a distance of five hundred feet to the rear. The light shall be  
4 red unless the vehicle is a street rod or custom vehicle with  
5 a blue dot tail light, in which case the light shall be red,  
6 blue, or purple. All lamps and lighting equipment originally  
7 manufactured on a motor vehicle shall be kept in working  
8 condition or shall be replaced with equivalent equipment.

9 Sec. 10. Section 321.393, subsection 2, Code 2015, is  
10 amended to read as follows:

11 2. No lighting device or reflector, when mounted on or  
12 near the rear of any motor truck or trailer, shall display any  
13 other color than red, except that the stop light may be red,  
14 yellow, or amber, or if the motor truck is a street rod or  
15 custom vehicle with a blue dot tail light, the lighting device  
16 or reflector may be red, blue, or purple.

17 Sec. 11. Section 321.395, Code 2015, is amended to read as  
18 follows:

19 **321.395 Lamps on parked vehicles.**

20 Whenever a vehicle is parked or stopped upon a roadway  
21 or shoulder adjacent to the roadway, outside of a business  
22 district whether attended or unattended during the times  
23 mentioned in section 321.384, such vehicle shall be equipped  
24 with one or more lamps which shall exhibit a white or amber  
25 light on the roadway side visible from a distance of five  
26 hundred feet to the front of such vehicle and a red light  
27 visible from a distance of five hundred feet to the rear,  
28 except that a street rod or custom vehicle with a blue dot tail  
29 light may display a red, blue, or purple light from the rear,  
30 and except that local authorities may provide by ordinance  
31 or resolution that no lights need be displayed upon any such  
32 vehicle when stopped or parked in accordance with local parking  
33 regulations upon a highway where there is sufficient light to  
34 reveal any person or object within a distance of five hundred  
35 feet upon such highway. Any lighted headlamps upon a parked

1 vehicle shall be depressed or dimmed.

2 Sec. 12. Section 321.404, Code 2015, is amended to read as  
3 follows:

4 **321.404 Signal lamps and signal devices.**

5 Every motor vehicle shall be equipped with a signal lamp  
6 or signal device which is so constructed and located on the  
7 vehicle as to give a signal of intention to stop, which shall  
8 be red or yellow in color, which signal shall be plainly  
9 visible and understandable in normal sunlight and at night  
10 from a distance of one hundred feet to the rear but shall not  
11 project a glaring or dazzling light. However, a street rod or  
12 custom vehicle with a blue dot tail light may display a red,  
13 blue, or purple signal lamp or signal device from the rear.

14 Sec. 13. Section 321.404A, subsection 1, Code 2015, is  
15 amended to read as follows:

16 1. A person shall not operate a motor vehicle, motorcycle,  
17 or motorized bicycle on the highways of this state if it is  
18 equipped with a device that restricts the light output of a  
19 headlamp required under section 321.385 or 321.386, a rear lamp  
20 required under section 321.387, a signal lamp or signal device  
21 required under section 321.404, or a directional signal device  
22 as described in section 321.317. However, a street rod or  
23 custom vehicle may be equipped with a blue dot tail light.

24 Sec. 14. Section 321.422, subsection 1, Code 2015, is  
25 amended to read as follows:

26 1. No person shall drive or move any vehicle or equipment  
27 upon any highway with any lamp or device thereon displaying  
28 or reflecting a red light visible from directly in front  
29 thereof. No person shall display any color of light other than  
30 red on the rear of any vehicle, except that stop lights and  
31 directional signals may be red, yellow, or amber, or if the  
32 vehicle is a street rod or custom vehicle with a blue dot tail  
33 light, rear lighting devices or reflectors may be red, blue,  
34 or purple.

35

EXPLANATION

1           The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
2           the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

3           This bill relates to street rods and custom motor vehicles.

4           DIVISION I — STREET RODS AND CUSTOM VEHICLES. Current  
5 law defines "street rod" as a vehicle manufactured prior to  
6 the year 1949, or any vehicle designed and manufactured to  
7 resemble a vehicle manufactured prior to the year 1949. The  
8 bill defines "custom vehicle" as a vehicle with a model year  
9 that is at least 25 years old and that was manufactured after  
10 1948, or any vehicle designed and manufactured to resemble a  
11 vehicle with a model year that is at least 25 years old and that  
12 was manufactured after 1948.

13          Current law sets forth certain requirements for registering  
14 a vehicle as a street rod. The bill adds two requirements: a  
15 statement that the vehicle will be maintained for occasional  
16 transportation or exhibition in club activities, parades,  
17 tours, or other similar uses, but will not be operated for  
18 general, everyday transportation, and proof that the vehicle  
19 passed a safety inspection approved by the department of  
20 transportation by rule. The bill applies the existing  
21 requirements and these new requirements to custom vehicles.  
22 The bill also applies other existing requirements for street  
23 rods to custom vehicles, including a non-safety-related  
24 physical inspection, a 30-day window after an inspection during  
25 which the vehicle owner may register the vehicle as a street  
26 rod or custom vehicle, and a safety inspection and fee required  
27 for vehicles that do not meet certain equipment requirements.

28          The bill provides that the registration fee for custom  
29 vehicles is determined the same way as the registration fee for  
30 street rods, and provides that street rods and custom vehicles  
31 are exempt from periodic vehicle inspections and emissions  
32 requirements imposed by Iowa law.

33          DIVISION II — SIGNAL LAMPS AND LIGHTING DEVICES. The  
34 bill defines "blue dot tail light" as a red lamp installed  
35 in the rear of a street rod or custom vehicle, containing a

H.F. 230

1 blue or purple insert no more than one inch in diameter, and  
2 used for a rear lamp, rear signal lamp, rear hazard lamp, or  
3 rear reflector. The bill provides that street rods and custom  
4 vehicles may use blue dot tail lights.